
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1955.

Councillors:

Chairman - - - Councillor A. E. England, J.P.

Vice-Chairman - - - Councillor W. G. Cole

Councillor M. J. Evans

Councillor A. Barton

„ (Mrs.) A. Robinson

„ K. Tiley

„ H. J. Reed

„ F. Edwards,

„ F. R. Salvage

B.E.M., J.P.

„ V. A. Watts

„ A. P. Griffiths

„ F. H. Belcher

„ J. L. Hewins

„ T. H. Coleman,

„ T. Maiden, M.M.

B.E.M.

„ J. D. Rees

„ R. Lawrence

„ J. Strange

Officers:

Clerk & Solicitor - - - F. N. V. Meredith

Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer - T. H. Dixon

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. H. V. M. Jones

Engineer & Surveyor - Malcolm T. Benjamin

Architect - - - George A. Atkinson

Sanitary Inspector - - - Lloyd G. Hale

Deputy Clerk - - - C. Knight

Deputy Treasurer - - - G. Lavin

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ABERCARN, MON.

1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR MRS. ROBINSON AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour of submitting the Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of your Area for the year 1955.

Area of Abercarn Urban District Area	...	9,543 acres
Population—Registrar General's Estimate	...	18,490
Inhabited Houses	... .. 1953	5,232
	1954	5,506
	1955	5,578
Number of Houses owned by the Council	...	1,348
Rateable Value	... .. 1953	£71,236
	1954	£73,646
	1955	£77,888
Product of Penny Rate	... .. 1953	£260 0 0
	1954	£273 0 0
	1955	£285 0 0

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

			1953	1954	1955
Males	...	...	148	164	160
Females	...	...	143	138	153
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			291	302	313
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population ... 16.38

Stillbirths.

	1953	1954	1955
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of the Population	0.47	0.43	0.43

DEATHS.

	1953	1954	1955
Females	81	98	105
Males	115	114	119
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	196	212	224
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	1953	1954	1955
Death Rate of 1,000 of the Population	11.58	11.48	12.11
Birth Rate per 1,000 Monmouthshire ...			15.29
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Monmouthshire ...			0.51
Birth Rate per 1,000 England & Wales ...			15.00
Death Rate per 1,000 Monmouthshire ...			12.40
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births, Monmouthshire			33.96
Death Rate per 1,000 England & Wales ...			11.70

INFANTILE MORTALITY.**Number of Deaths under One Year: 9.**

	1953	1954	1955
Boys	3	7	5
Girls	5	9	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	16	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	1953	1954	1955
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	32.63	39.67	28.43

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES.

					0 to 1 week.	1 to 4 weeks.	4 weeks to one year.
All causes	...	...	...	...	3	2	6
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia (All forms)	...	...	...	...	—	—	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Violence	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	—	2	3

ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES—DEATHS.

				1953	1954	1955
Bronchitis	...	...	...	20	18	23
Pneumonia	...	...	...	9	10	12
Other Forms	...	...	...	3	6	3
				—	—	—
				32	34	38
				—	—	—

CANCER DEATHS.

				1953	1954	1955
Males	...	...	...	19	20	22
Females	...	...	...	15	13	14
				—	—	—
				34	33	36
				—	—	—

Infectious Diseases.

The principal Notifiable Diseases are Smallpox, Typhoid Typhus, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Continued Fever.

There were no deaths from the principal Notifiable Diseases during 1955.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1955.

1954.						1955.	
M.		F.				M.	F.
114	98	ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	119	105
		Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	...	...	...	2	1
		Tuberculosis—Other Forms	...	...	...	—	—
		Sylphillitic Diseases	...	...	...	1	—
		Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
		Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
		Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—
		Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
		Measles	...	...	...	—	—
		Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	1	—
		Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	6	3
		Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	...	...	...	8	1
		Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	—	1
		Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	—	—
		Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	8	9
		Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—
		Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—
		Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	15	15
		Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	13	12
		Hypertension of Heart Disease	...	...	...	1	2
		Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	19	27
		Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	2	1
		Influenza	...	...	...	1	1
		Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	5
		Bronchitis	...	...	...	16	7
		Other Disease of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	2
		Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	—	—
		Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	2	—
		Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	—	1

Hyper-plasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	—	3
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	9	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	2	1
All other Accidents	...	...	...	2	3
Suicide	...	...	...	2	1
Homocide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—

ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

Diseases.	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 plus	Total
Scarlet Fever..	—	2	—	5	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	2	1	1	1	2	—	—	5	1	4	4	22
Measles ...	22	61	12	80	21	155	22	1	—	—	—	—	374
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Whooping Cough ...	18	16	15	19	9	19	3	—	—	—	—	—	99
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	41	81	28	105	31	195	25	1	5	1	7	4	524

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

			1952	1953	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever	...	...	20	24	10	26
Dysentery	...	...	5	2	2	—
Diphtheria	...	...	1	—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	36	32	20	22
Meningitis	...	...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	30	20	11	21
Whooping Cough	...	...	37	63	59	99
Erysipelas	...	...	—	5	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	...	...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	30	7	3	6
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	4	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	109	239	2	374
			274	393	108	551

During the year, there was a noticeable increase in the number of Infectious Diseases notified. This was especially so in the cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and in the last Quarter of the year sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified.

The year, generally speaking, has been a healthy one apart from the sharp increase in measles. Better treatment and quicker diagnosis seem to be reducing the incidence of Tuberculosis. Routine Mass Radiography of districts and of factories employing young people has been valuable in detecting early cases and so facilitating their early cure.

The Immunisation of combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Prophylaxis has proved popular and enhanced the value of the County Infant Welfare Clinics. For the first time Monmouthshire and particularly the Western Valley was affected by a mild epidemic of Infantile Paralysis. There is no special reason why Monmouthshire should be again affected in the ensuing years.

Nevertheless haphazard mild epidemics of Poliomyelitis have been increasing in frequency in the County as a whole. It is most gratifying that Vaccination against Poliomyelitis has become available.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This service continues to be carried out by the County Council.

There were no reported cases of Diphtheria during the year 1955. Where such cases are notified, isolation facilities exist at Bedwellty Hospital and Alteryon Isolation Hospital.

The response of Innoculation against Diphtheria continues to improve as will be seen from the figures below.

Children under five years of age are innoculated by Assistant Medical Officers from the County Council's Public Health Department at the District Clinics. School children by the Area Medical Officer at the Schools.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of children at 31st December who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date, i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1937 :—

Age at date of final injection (regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B).

	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	Total.
A. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents) during the year 1955.	3	115	31	149
B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (i.e., subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the six months ended 31st Dec., 1955.	—	1	138	139

The incidents of Diphtheria in England and Wales remained much the same in 1955 as in 1954. Since 1948 notifications have fallen from 3,575 (190) to a new low figure of 161 (1) (Provisional) for 1955. The following are the figures for deaths and notifications (corrected) since 1948 and I have tabulated these for your information.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Corrected Notifications.</i>
1948	157 (7)	3,575 (190)
1949	84 (1)	1,890 (102)
1950	49 (Nil)	962 (62)
1951	33 (1)	664 (53)
1952	32 (3)	376 (39)
1953	23 (Nil)	266 (17)
1954	9 (Nil)	173 (7)
1955	11 (Nil)*	161 (1)*

*Provisional.

Throughout, the figures first quoted are those for England and Wales, the figures in the parenthesis immediately following are for Wales alone.

The Minister appreciates the importance of Local Authority's achievements in this field of Public Health, which have produced such remarkable results over recent years. Nevertheless, as long as cases of Diphtheria still occur its prevention still remains an essential Public Health Service. The Minister is confident that Local Authorities, despite the growing number of other vaccination and immunisation procedures, will continue their efforts to ensure a high level of immunisation against Diphtheria. He is advised that particular efforts should be made in Areas where publicity may have been suspended at any time during the last six years and also in those areas where there is a low percentage of immunised children under five. Requests from the latter areas will receive especially favourable consideration if applications for press advertising include the percentage figures.

Vaccination—Smallpox.

Vaccination for the year 1955 totalled 38.

The following table is submitted for your information.

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during the period.

Age at date of vaccination.	Under 1	1—2	2—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Number vaccinated ...	10	14	4	2	1	31
Number re-vaccinated ...	—	—	—	4	3	7

(II) **Number of Persons Specially Reported during Period**
(age groups as above).

(a) Generalised						
Vaccina ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post-vaccinal						
Encephalo-						
myetitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Death from						
complications						
of vaccination						
other than						
(a) or (b) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE ATTENDANCES.

Attendances at the Cwmcarn and Newbridge Centres for the year 1955 are set out in the following table for your information. Inasmuch as the figures for Hafodyrynys are not available for the complete year they have not been included.

Centre.	Under 1.	1954.	1953.	1949-1952.
Cwmcarn ...	189	113	124	161
Newbridge ...	264	128	158	158
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	453	241	282	319
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Centre.	Under 1.	Over 1 Under 2.	Over 2 Under 5.	Total.
Cwmcarn ...	1,239	289	214	2,150
Newbridge ...	1,528	391	246	2,619
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,777	680	470	4,769
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Attendances at the Cwmcarn Centre ...	2,150
Attendances at the Newbridge Centre ...	2,619
	<hr/>

Total Attendances for the year 1955 ... 4,769

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.		
			M.	F.	M.	F.			
Total Cases on Register									
31-12-54	89	89	...	12	24	...	214
New Cases 1955	11	9	...	—	—	...	20
Deaths	2	1	...	—	—	...	3
Recovered	1	1	...	—	—	...	2
Removed from District	..		2	1	...	—	—	...	3
			—	—	—	—	—	—	
			95	95		12	24		226

As can be seen from the above table twenty new cases of Tuberculosis, together with one inward transfer were notified during the year.

Analysis of these figures show no evidence of the cases falling in a particular age group. The notified cases bear favourable comparison with the year 1952 :

When thirty cases were notified.

While for the year 1953 :

Nineteen cases were notified.

The 1954 figures show :

Eleven notifiable cases.

During the four years under review 49 cases were removed from the Register for various reasons.

You will be aware that in the years under review the Mobile X-ray Unit has paid two visits to each village in the Urban Area, while factories and schools have been visited more frequently.

In all the new cases, as enumerated above, all the homes of the patients were visited and detailed family history record cards were compiled. The appropriate forms were sent to the Area Chest Clinic and also to the County Medical Officer, while all family contacts were advised to visit the Area Chest Clinic for medical examination.

**Annual Return of Food Poisoning Out-Breaks in the Area of
the Abercarn Urban District Council for the year
January 1st, 1955, to December 31st, 1955.**

In accordance with Circular 46/49 (Wales) dated 24th May, 1949, Returns as per Memo 188/MED (Appendix 1) are submitted herewith.

Annual Return of Food Poisoning Notifications (corrected).

Local Authority Abercarn Urban District Council, year January 1st, 1955, to 31st December, 1955.

(2nd) Food Poisoning Notification corrected Return to R.G.

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
Nil	4	Nil	2	6

(3rd) Outbreaks due to identified Agents.

Total Outbreaks ... Nil Total Cases ... Nil

(3rd A). Outbreaks due to Salmonella Organisms ... Nil

(4th). Outbreaks of undiscovered cause.

Total Outbreaks ... 5 Total Cases ... 6

(5th) Outbreaks. Single Cases ... 5.

Agent Identified ...	...	...	Nil
Unknown Cases ...	...	...	6

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

SUMMARY OF DETAILS.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS. In all cases inquiries were made as to foodstuffs consumed immediately prior to the onset of symptoms. These enquiries proved of little or no avail, and in no case could food or drink be directly traced as having caused these sporadic outbreaks.

AGENT CAUSING OUTBREAKS. Bacteriological examination proved negative, and in each case the patient quickly recovered and regained normality.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. H. V. M. JONES, M.B. (Lon.), D.P.H. (Liv.).

Sanitary Inspector :

LLOYD HALE, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H., C.R.S.I.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services are maintained by the County Council at Newbridge, Cwmcarn and Hafodyrynys.

Isolation Hospitals.

There are no Isolation Hospitals in the Council's Area, but arrangements have been made for Infectious Diseases cases to be admitted to the Bedwellty Isolation Hospital, Aberbargoed, and Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport.

Five cases from this Area were admitted to the Isolation Hospitals during 1955. These you will recall were cases of Poliomyelitis

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

As from 1st July, 1948, it is now the duty of the County Council to administer this service. This duty is performed by the Area Medical Officers.

Ambulance Service.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council now administers the Ambulance Service.

Bacteriological Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Samples of Milk, Ice-Cream, Water and samples from the Council's Swimming Baths were submitted to the Laboratory at the County Hall for examination during the year, and where necessary food samples were also submitted.

Water Supplies.

The Council is a constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. The chief supply is obtained from Gwynne-Fawr Reservoir situated in the Black Mountains, Breconshire; subsidiary supplies are obtained from local sources. The water is of good quality and large supplementary quantities were obtained from the Llanover Scheme. This as Members will be aware proved a boon in the long periods of draught of last year. The water is sampled by the Board and from time to time by the Local Authority (who submitted samples for bacteriological examination). Where found necessary the supplies were chlorinated by the Board's Officials.

Number Houses with a Piped Supply	...	5,488
Number of Houses supplied from wells and Springs	... ..	85
Approximate population supplied from Pub- lic Water Mains, direct to houses	...	18,406

During the year inspections were made of Water Supplies and systems generally, where the pressure was reported to be low. Upon inspection it was found that in almost all cases the corrosion of pipes was responsible for inadequate supplies for all domestic purposes. In such cases, Informal Notices and where necessary Statutory Notices under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945, were served with complete success.

Sewers and Drains.

The Council is a constituent Member of the Western Valley Sewerage Board. The Council's subsidiary sewers are connected to the Main Trunk Sewer.

There were approximately 45 houses not connected to the the sewer. These are chiefly isolated cottages on the mountain tops which are too far from any of the present sewers to be connected. Apart from lacking water supply these houses are very old, lacking in all normal amenities, and are now included in the Demolition and Slum Clearance Proposals. Some of these cottages have already been demolished.

Scavenging.

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour twice weekly. The tip is situated in the Valley at Pant-y-reske, Abercarn, and is partially controlled.

Refuse Disposal.

Regular inspections in connection with Rodent Control and Fly Breeding have been carried out, and extensive treatments for the elimination of rodents and flies are continually being undertaken.

Rainfall.

Rainfall is recorded at Abercarn Cemetery.
Height above Sea Level ... 539.9 feet.

The table shows the monthly rainfall, also the day of the month when the greatest fall occurred.

Month			Rainfall.	Greatest fall in 24 hours in inches.	Date.	No. of days with 0.01 ins. or more.
January	...	...	5.33	0.63	15th	16
February	...	...	2.44	0.62	5th	8
March	...	...	3.39	1 18	22nd	7
April	...	...	2.04	0.43	29th	10
May	...	...	6.45	1.70	16th	18
June	...	...	5.45	2.15	3rd	17
July	...	...	0.37	0.21	3rd	3
August	...	...	0.86	0.42	17th	4
September	..	...	1.45	0.42	8th	9
October	...	...	3.21	1.41	18th	8
November	...	...	7.99	1.74	10th	7
December	...	...	8.89	1.50	11th	18
Total			47.87ins.	2.15	3/6/55	125 days

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Housing Conditions.

During the year 1955, 53 Housing Units were completed. Additionally, 19 Private Houses were completed. In the cases of some of the privately built bungalows, mortgages were arranged by the Local Authority, whereby up to ninety per cent. of the estimated cost of these new bungalows have been loaned.

Additionally, the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act is in operation whereby mortgagors can borrow up to a total of ninety per cent. of the purchase price or ninety per cent. of the Surveyor's valuation whichever is the lesser.

Extensive advantage has been taken of these provisions.

Improvement Grants.

Many applications were received for improvements of houses, which are devoid of facilities such as :—

- (1) An internal or accessible water closet.
- (2) A piped hot water supply.

- (3) Installation of bathrooms (where none at present exist).
- (4) Extensions or enlargements to existing kitchenettes, living rooms or bedroom accommodation, etc., as under the Housing Act, 1949.

Improvement Grants under the above-mentioned Act.

(a) Number of Improvements Grants, 1955	...	22
(b) Total number of Improvement Grants, 1949-1955 inclusive	... ..	39
(c) Amount of Improvement Grants, 1955	...	£1,472
(d) Total amount of Improvement Grants, 1949-1955 inclusive	... ..	£8,345

Improvement Loans under the above-mentioned Act.

Facilities are made available under the Housing Act, 1949, whereby the Local Authority have power to loan money for the repair of houses, within the Urban Area, which are outside the province of the Improvement Sections :—

(1) Number of Improvement Loans, 1955	...	4
(2) Total amount of Improvement Loans, 1955	...	£146
(3) Number of Improvement Loans, 1949-1955 inclusive	... ..	6
(4) Total amount of Improvement Loans, 1949-1955 inclusive	... ..	£539

Housing, Rents and Repairs Act, 1954.

During the year, very many preliminary enquiries were made by owners of property in the Area, as to the fulfilment of conditions specified or referred to in Section 23 (1) (a) (1) and (2) of the Act, justifying an increase of rent. Irrespective of receipted bills that either three or six times the Statutory deduction has been spent in the stipulated time on house repairs, the houses under discussion still fell short of the requirements specified in sub-section (1) of Section 9 of the above-mentioned Act, and the owners did not increase the rent.

Only in four cases was it necessary to serve Certificates of Disrepair upon application being made. One of these

Certificates was subsequently revoked at the completion of repairs, as set out in the Schedule. While, in the other three remaining cases the Certificates are still in operation.

Council Houses.

Total number of new separate dwellings completed during the year :—

(1) By Local Authority	53
(2) By Private Enterprise	19

Number of Local Authority Dwellings in the course of erection on 31st December, 1955	86
---	----

These comprise of :—

- (a) Three bedroom houses.
- (b) Three storied flats.
- (c) Sixteen Old Age Persons' Dwellings.
- (d) Two bungalows especially adapted for traumatic paraplegics.

Demolitions and Clearance Areas.

During the year, survey of the houses in the District was made, and a total of 214 houses was found to be unfit for human habitation. These comprise of :—

- 39 Individual unfit houses.
- 170 in Clearance Areas.
- 5 Closing Orders.

These Clearance Areas are generally small, the largest being twelve in number.

These proposals were submitted to the Ministry and accepted.

Housing.

Number of Dwelling Houses inspected	614
Re-inspected	806
Number of premises at which repairs and improvements have been carried out	273
Warning Notices served	250
Remedied without Notice	250
Statutory Notices served	61
Statutory Notices complied with	60

Statutory Notices not complied with	1
Number of Houses in the Area	5,578
Number of Houses owned by the Council	1,348
Number of Dwelling Houses erected during the year by the Council	53
Number of New Houses erected privately in the year 1955	19

Drainage.

Drainage stoppages dealt with, New Drainage con- nection, improvements and repairs	217
Disinfections carried out	45
Disinfestations carried out	16

The following statement is in the form prescribed by the Ministry :—

1. Inpection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected during the year for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 526

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 649

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 Nil

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 214

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in respects reasonably fit for habitation Nil

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices 380

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit for occupation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 163

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... Nil

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice ... Nil

(a) By owners ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... Nil

Number of houses under Circular 2845 ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 61

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice—

(a) By owners ... 60

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 10

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 8

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... 1

4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 91

2. Number of families dwelling therein ... 176

3. Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	528
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	3
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	19
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases			71
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	Nil

Hotels, Inns, Clubs, etc.

Survey of the hotels, inns and clubs in the Area were carried out during the year, a number of which fell short of requirements as under the Public Health Act, 1936.

In the very old type of inn drainage facilities, lavatory and urinal accommodation was inadequate and insanitary. In other cases facilities for the cleansing of glasses were not available, and in general the inns were in need of extensive redecoration and modernisation.

It was gratifying to see the results, that in four cases extensive alterations and modernisations were carried out by the Brewery Companies, upon the service of Informal Notices.

The survey was carried out for :—

- (1) General cleanliness of premises.
- (2) The cleanliness and condition of serving bars.
- (3) Beer engines.
- (4) Drip troughs.
- (5) Sinks.
- (6) Drinking vessels.
- (7) Towels and drying clothes.
- (8) Cellars.
- (9) Beer pipes.
- (10) Distributors.
- (11) Sanitary Accommodation.
- (12) Facilities and accommodation for catering and storage of food.

INSPECTION OF MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Milk and Dairies.

Certain registrations and licensing duties remain with the Local Authority in addition to the supervision of distributors and dairy premises, and the taking of samples for bacteriological and biological examination.

Sampling is also undertaken by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme and the Food and Drugs Inspector of the County takes samples for chemical analysis :—

Number of Registered Distributors	43
Number of Premises registered as Dairies ...	43
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested " ...	12
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation " Pasteurised "	43
Number of Dealers licensed to use the Special Designation " Sterilised "	12
Number of Supplementary Licences granted	3

During the year samples of milk were taken from School Canteens, N.C.B. canteens, vendors and cafés on more than one occasion. As the source of milk came from only two firms, the consistent sampling showed that out of the many samples taken only five failed to pass the Methylene Blue Reduction Test; these failures were attributable to undue exposure to strong sunlight or the hot weather of last Summer.

Two cases failed the Phosphatase Test.

In no instance when samples were taken for the detection of Tubercular Bacillie were samples found to be positive.

Meat and Other Foods.

A large quantity of tinned and other foods were inspected during the year. The following articles were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

98lbs. Corned Beef.	33 tins Corned Beef.
201 tins Tomatoes.	54 tins Beans.
9 tins Stewed Steak.	21 tins Peas.
31 tins Pineapples.	206½lbs. Cheese.

1 tin Pears.	58 tins Milk.
35 tins Luncheon Meat.	59 tins Tongue.
3 tins Damsons.	6 tins Peaches.
16 tins Apricots.	3 tins Apples.
2 tins Apple Pudding.	2 Legs Pork.
3 tins Chicken Spread.	18 tins Salmon.
62lbs. Bacon.	1 Side Bacon.
67½lbs. Boneless Shin Beef.	19 tins Pilchards.
8 tins Bacon.	4 tins Mixed Vegetables.
2 tins Carrots.	8lbs. Butter.
1 tin Crab.	6 packets Suet.
66lbs. Sausage.	4 tins Ham.
6lbs. Ham.	8 tins Cream.
2 Packets Oats.	36 packets of Ryvita.
	2 Lamb Carcases.

The following is the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat and offal condemned:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Slaughtered ...	486	133	40	1,110	471
Number Inspected ...	486	133	40	1,110	471
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	3	2	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	146	19	—	94	3
Percentage of number affected diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	30.04%	14.28%	—	8.4%	0.63%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	2	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ is condemned for Tuberculosis	74	58	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis	15.22%	43.6%	—	—	—

The aforementioned figures only refer to privately controlled Slaughterhouses within the Urban Area. These slaughterhouses which number two, came into operation in August, 1954.

Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949.

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

	Type of Property.				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses including Council Houses.	All other (in- cluding Business Premises).	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3).	Agricul- ture.
<hr/>					
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District Notes 1 and 2.	8	5,578	1,172	6,758	65
<hr/>					
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ...	1	55	14	71	—
(b) Survey under the Act	5	206	42	268	31
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited prim- arily for some other purpose) ...	2	144	62	216	19
III. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections		Figures not available			
(To be completed only if figures are readily available).					
<hr/>					
IV. Number of proper- ties inspected (in Sect. II (which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats (Major) ...	1	—	—	1	2
(Minor) ...	3	47	—	50	4
(b) Mice (Major) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(Minor) ...	1	6	14	21	1

	Type of Property.				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses.	All other (including Business Premises).	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3).	Agriculture.
V. Number of Infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. ... (Figures should not exceed those given by Sect. IV).	4	53	14	71	7
VI. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments ... (To be completed only if figures are readily available).		Figures not available			
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing) ...	—	6	4	10	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	—	—	—	—	—

Rodent Control.

The Rodent Operator employed on this work has attended Refresher Courses from time to time on Rodent Control.

The Canal, River Banks, Refuse Tips, Pigs' Cots, School Canteens, etc., are regularly surveyed and treated where necessary.

Private and business premises are also dealt with, the latter being chargeable.

The table as set out above is a complete Report for the twelve months ending 31st Decembr, 1955. Additionally, two sewer treatments were carried out in February/March and September/October of 1955. The following are the figures:—

	No. of manholes treated		Bait taken Poison small good		Total
	Prebait				
February/March ...	846	83	83	66	242
September/October ...	846	76	76	52	204

Factories and Workshops.

The two factories situated on the old Cwmcarn Park site continued to be in full operation, where there are more than seven hundred people employed in both factories.

Total number of Factories in the Area ...	8
Total number of Workshops in the Area ...	22
	—
Total ...	30
	—

These factories and workshops are periodically inspected in order that they comply with the Factories Act, 1937.

Number of Defects.

Particulars	Found Remedied		Referred No. of to H.M. Prose- cutions	
			Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	3	3	—	—
Want of Ventlation ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	1	1	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	2	2	—	—

Sanitary Accommodation:

Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
	8	8	—	—

Bakehouses.

These premises are periodically inspected for compilation of the Council Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The baking of bread in these Bakehouses is gradually changing; the bakers themselves buying wholesale pre-packed bread.

Fish Fryers.

Regular visits and inspections were made of the eight Registered Premises. It was necessary in two instances to bring to the notice of the proprietors that internal decoration could be carried out with advantage. The improvements were made.

Licensed Slaughtermen.

Several applications were received and granted by the Council during the year.

Swimming Pool.

The Council's open-air Swimming Pool was well patronised during the summer months.

Water samples were taken frequently during the heavy bathing season and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological and Free Chlorine Examination.

All samples submitted to the bacteriologist were found to be satisfactory.

Trouble was experienced with a portion of the filtration plant during the latter part of the bathing season. The defective portions were renewed during the winter months for the 1956 season.

H. V. M. JONES, M.B. (London), D.P.H. (Liverpool),

Medical Officer of Health.

LLOYD G. HALE, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H., C.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

